

# HOUSE BILL No. 1271

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 31-33-8.

**Synopsis:** Child abuse or neglect allegations in military families. Requires the department of child services (department) to notify the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program (program) if a child of an active duty member of the military is the subject of an assessment regarding an allegation of abuse or neglect. Requires the department to make the assessment report available to the program upon request.

**Effective:** July 1, 2016.

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January 11, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs.

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Second Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1271

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning family law and juvenile law.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 31-33-8-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.162-2011,
- 2 SECTION 45, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 3 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 7. (a) The department's assessment, to the extent
- 4 that is reasonably possible, must include the following:
- 5 (1) The nature, extent, and cause of the known or suspected child
- 6 abuse or neglect.
- 7 (2) The identity of the person allegedly responsible for the child
- 8 abuse or neglect.
- 9 (3) The names and conditions of other children in the home.
- 10 (4) An evaluation of the parent, guardian, custodian, or person
- 11 responsible for the care of the child.
- 12 (5) The home environment and the relationship of the child to the
- 13 parent, guardian, or custodian or other persons responsible for the
- 14 child's care.
- 15 (6) All other data considered pertinent.
- 16 (b) The assessment may include the following:
- 17 (1) A visit to the child's home.



(2) An interview with the subject child.

(3) A physical, psychological, or psychiatric examination of any child in the home.

(c) If:

(1) admission to the home, the school, or any other place that the child may be; or

(2) permission of the parent, guardian, custodian, or other persons responsible for the child for the physical, psychological, or psychiatric examination;

under subsection (b) cannot be obtained, the juvenile court, upon good cause shown, shall follow the procedures under IC 31-32-12.

(d) If a custodial parent, a guardian, or a custodian of a child refuses to allow the department to interview the child after the caseworker has attempted to obtain the consent of the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian to interview the child, the department may petition a court to order the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian to make the child available to be interviewed by the caseworker.

(e) If the court finds that:

(1) a custodial parent, a guardian, or a custodian has been informed of the hearing on a petition described under subsection

(d); and

(2) the department has made reasonable and unsuccessful efforts to obtain the consent of the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian to interview the child;

the court shall specify in the order the efforts the department made to obtain the consent of the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian and may grant the motion to interview the child, either with or without the custodial parent, guardian, or custodian being present.

**(f) If a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who is the subject of a reported allegation of abuse or neglect is an active duty member of:**

**(1) the armed forces of the United States;**

**(2) the reserve component of a branch of the armed forces of the United States; or**

**(3) the national guard;**

**the department shall notify the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program of the assessment concerning the child of the active duty member of the military.**

SECTION 2. IC 31-33-8-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.131-2009, SECTION 48, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 9. (a) The department's report under section 8 of this chapter shall be made available to:



- 1 (1) the appropriate court;  
2 (2) the prosecuting attorney; ~~or~~  
3 (3) the appropriate law enforcement agency; **or**  
4 **(4) the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy**  
5 **Program, if a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child who is**  
6 **the subject of a reported allegation of abuse or neglect is an**  
7 **active duty member of the military as described in section**  
8 **(7)(f) of this chapter;**

9 upon request.

10 (b) If child abuse or neglect is substantiated after an assessment is  
11 conducted under section 7 of this chapter, the department shall forward  
12 its report to the office of the prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction in  
13 the county in which the alleged child abuse or neglect occurred.

14 (c) If the assessment substantiates a finding of child abuse or neglect  
15 as determined by the department, a report shall be sent to the  
16 coordinator of the community child protection team under IC 31-33-3.

